ADMINISTRATION REPORT

ON THE

HILL TRACTS, NORTHERN ARAKAN,

FOR

The year 1872-73.

Rangoon:

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1873.

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RESOLUTION

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

HILL TRACTS, NORTHERN ARAKAN,

For the year 1872-73.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner in the Political Department,—dated Rangoon, the 1st October 1873.

READ—

Letter No. 240, dated 16th August 1873, from the Commissioner of the Arakan Division, forwarding the report of the Superintendent of the Hill Tracts for the year 1872-73.

RESOLUTION.—The Chief Commissioner has perused with much interest the Administration Report of the Hill Tracts of Northern Arakan for the past official year. The evident progress made in many of the most important points of our management of this somewhat difficult frontier enables the Chief Commissioner to express his general satisfaction with the administration of Captain Hughes.

2. A further step has been made in opening out friendly relations with the surrounding tribes. The brother of one of the trans-frontier Shindoo Chiefs has paid the Superintendent a visit, and inasmuch as this Chief's clan is one which has taken an active part in raids committed within the British frontier during past years, it is hoped that the visit will not be without some good result. . It will be necessary, however, for the Superintendent, while encouraging these friendly conferences from non-tributary tribes, to carefully avoid any attempt to control them in the management of their own people, or to interfere in their disputes among themselves. All those who desire to lead a peaceful life, and to enjoy the advantages of living under the protection of our police, must come within the demarcated boundaries of the district, and live in rear of our line of posts.

3. The result of the new system of administration within the tracts themselves is exceedingly satisfactory, and promises well for the future. The increase to the police and

to the European staff, the location of the Superintendent in the heart of his district, and the careful distribution of the force so as to command the most important points in the district, have materially changed the condition of affairs. Instead of the constant raids which in late years gave so much trouble and caused so much loss of life and property, there has during the past year been only one raid; and in that, which was the result of an intertribal dispute, there was no bloodshed; and the captives taken were restored to their homes, by the prompt action taken by the police under Mr. Porter, the Inspector. There was one other attempt at a raid, which was, however, prevented by the police, who are rapidly acquiring a better knowledge of the routes taken by the attacking parties from across the frontier, and who have now better means of obtaining information of the movements of the Non-tributary Chiefs.

4. Even beyond our borders raids and fights have decreased, and our influence is being felt. This, the Chief Commissioner is of opinion, reflects much credit on Captain Hughes, Captain Hotham, his assistant, during the past year, and Messrs. Hannay and Porter of the police. The subordinate police also have behaved very well throughout the year. It will be well, however, that Captain Hughes should not be too dependent on his European staff; he should endeavour to train up, from among the inhabitants of the country, those who are likely to assist him in maintaining order.

5. The increase of tobacco and cotton cultivation is of general interest, and is capable of being made an important feature in the future of the Hill Tracts. The subject will no doubt continue to receive Captain Hughes' close attention, and the Chief Commissioner trusts the Commissioner of Arakan will take steps to bring the Hill Tracts within the scheme of district produce shows, to which sanction has been accorded. The Superintendent will doubtless see that good samples of the tobacco are purchased from the competitors and sent to the Central Exhibition in Rangoon, where the quality of the tobacco will be better tested by comparison with that from other parts of the province, and where its value as a marketable produce will be more generally brought to notice.

6. Captain Hughes in remarking on the revenue derived from the district, states that the incidence of taxation as at present levied, causes some discontent, and is open to improvement. The rates of taxation are not high in themselves, and are not of such an amount in the aggregate as to be of importance

to the Government one way or the other. The Chief Commissioner would wish, however, a further special report from Captain Hughes on the subject, with details of the improvement he would propose in the collection of the revenue.

7. The Regulations which are to be applied to the Hill Tracts under 33 Vic., Cap. 3, are now before the Government of India, as well as the question of opening out communication with the Chittagong District and the Sungoo Valley.

By order of the Chief Commissioner,

H. T. DUNCAN, *Major*,

Officiating Secretary.

MINISTRATION REPORT

ON THE

RACTS, NORTHERN ARAKAN,

For the year 1872-73.

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issioner of the Arakan Division, to the Officiating Secretary to Commissioner, British Burma,—No. 240, dated the 16th August 1873.

he honor to submit the Annual Report for the ie Hill Tracts for 1872-73, drawn up by the Super- aptain W. G. Hughes. It is so full and detailed remains for me but to comment on some of the tant passages.

egards Captain Hughes' 10th paragraph, I have to at with very few exceptions all the villages in this either situated upon the banks of the rivers or ow elevation upon the hills or summits of hills. osts, too, are all in the valleys upon the banks of There is no station or village high above the

l be observed from his 15th paragraph that the num- inhabiting these tracts is now first spoken of as This summary is, I believe, correct: occasionally *hami*" has been superadded, but this has been done either to signify a separate offshoot of the Khway- cipal tribe in the hills, or as a separate family

nly to add to his 19th paragraph that there are ide those in the Hill Tracts, who live in the parts of the Akyab District, though near

27th paragraph I have to observe that Major Commissioner of Sandoway, is also engaged in making researches into the manners, customs, and language of the Khyings.

6. It is an interesting fact, and one which I shall request Captain Hughes to substantiate further and enlarge upon by every means in his power, that the language of the Great

Karen people closely resembles the Khway
the hills, as noticed in his 28th paragraph.

7. I should transliterate the vernacular n
the people described in Captain Hughes' 3
differently from him : thus, I should write
"Khyengs," and "Khoungtsos."

8. He refers in his 34th paragraph to a visit
satisfactory character paid to him during the y
brother of a powerful Shindoo Chief, which I thi
to very good results. Captain Hughes is of c
instructions to encourage as much as possible s
visits.

9. His remarks in paragraph 40 as to our p
ence over the independent Khon tribe, are very

10. I have to observe upon his 41st paragra
European officer he mentions, Mr. W. Porter,
Police,—an active and intelligent young office
mainly employed upon the Great Lemroo River thi
the favourable results noted by Captain Hughes.

11. Referring to paragraph 44, it is extremely
to find that only one raid, and that not a very se
has occurred within this district during the year.
our power is beginning to be more known and f
our frontier. The military campaign of 1871-72
Hannay's* defeat of a larg
Shindoos during that season
doubt had their due effects.

* Assistant Superintendent in this district.

12. Great credit seems to be due to Messrs.
Hotham for their activity in preparing to me
raiders during the year, which, as Captain H
had the effect of warding off some incursions
paragraph).

13. His remarks in paragraph 50 *et seq*
deliverance of captives, whom he properly s
from their captors, will, I am sure, be read w

14. I am happy to add that his views, n
paragraph, as to the discretion and caution ne
ing their deliverance, appear to be judicious.

15. His 53rd paragraph, which I extract here in full, adverts to the only raid which has occurred during the year, and gives a short summary of the success of the administration as to crime :—"The substance of this most important "head of the report is, therefore, that no successful raids have "been effected during the year, for neither has a single cap-

"tive been retained, nor has any bloodshed been committed "within the Hill Tracts."

16. In his 56th paragraph he puts the population higher than it has yet been estimated. I am rather surprised at this estimate, but I believe that it is not very much too high. From 7,000 to 8,000 has till now been the estimate; but it appears that Mr. Porter, while employed upon the Lemroo this year, took considerable pains to ascertain the number of the tribute-paying Khyings, and satisfied himself that these amounted to about 1,700 or 1,800, which were shown in last report to be 530. The Khwaymie (wrongly spelt in his little table), I fear, may be over-estimated this year. Of course census operations in these hills are for the present out of the question. I can hardly, however, believe in the considerable preponderance of males shown.

In some instances, of course, the disparity is in a small measure due to policemen, who are without wives.

17. I am disposed to think that no great damage can be done to the timber of these hills by the sparse population in their cultivation, though it be entirely what is known as toungya. Captain Hughes has some remarks on this point in his 58th paragraph. Under any circumstances a system of forest conservancy is hardly called for yet; but a Forest Officer will shortly visit the district.

18. His remarks (paragraphs 59—62) on certain produce, cotton and tobacco, are satisfactory: both subjects have our best attention, and it will be seen that an experiment in teak-planting has been commenced, with, I believe, good prospects. A useful report on tobacco by Captain Hughes is at present before the Chief Commissioner. He has recently verbally informed me that his latest estimate of 3,000 acres as the area under tobacco is far too low. And it will doubtless be observed in that report that he brings forward the important fact that the hill tobacco is house-dried. This tobacco will, I feel sure, be a good deal heard of hereafter.

19. Adverting to his 65th paragraph, I have to note that our revenue in this district is not a matter of much importance at present: our total collections are about Rs. 4,000. There is some discrepancy between the figures here given and those in his Revenue Report. Captain Hughes' attention will be drawn to the matter, so as to avoid such differences in future.

20. In his 68th and 69th paragraphs he has some interesting remarks upon the subject of proprietary rights in the

hills, and he refers to a sunnud which he has seen. I propose to make careful investigation into this important question of "title" among these people.

21. As to "divisions" for this district (paragraph 74), I am not yet disposed to recommend the question for consideration.

22. In paragraph 78 he refers to the disinclination of the hill people to employ pleaders, apparently mainly resulting from some heavy charges made by a pleader in the previous year. The opinion is not, however, I think, sufficiently strongly grounded.

23. As to his paragraph 82, I have to observe that a draft code of laws has been submitted to the Government.

24. The following is the table of criminal trials and convictions given in his 83rd paragraph, which is satisfactorily insignificant:—

	Number of offences reported.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Convicted.
1871	31	46	22
1872	41	68	46
Increase	10	22	24

25. I have little more to remark upon his chapter on Police (paragraphs 91 *et seq.*) than that their conduct has been very good during the year, and that I believe that a *quasi* body of soldiers—appearing, no doubt, to the hill tribes really soldiers—is duly respected by all the hill tribes as a formidable body of men. Their duties have often been very arduous this year in patrolling and following up traces of raiders, and these appear to have been well and uncomplainingly performed.

26. Captain Hughes' progress in erecting his public buildings (his paragraphs 100 and 101) has been very satisfactory—in fact, everything that was to have been done by him has been done.

27. His bazaars (paragraphs 103 to 108) appear to answer well; while there is free and unobstructed trade also on the rivers, which is of course a great convenience to the people.

28. The health of the district has been remarkably good, as shown in his paragraph 119.

29. Paragraph 121 shows the very great difficulty there is in keeping a Native Doctor at his post. It is hoped that an Assistant Apothecary (who has been applied for) may prove fitter for the situation.

30. As regards Captain Hughes' remarks (paragraph 123 *et seq.*) upon the line of frontier defence recently projected, I shall only observe that certain details are under the consideration of the Local Government There are very great difficulties in the way of patrolling from the Arakan Hill Tracts into those of Chittagong,—indeed, the only feasible measure appears to be, a patrol from Dalukmay due west to a post placed as near to us as possible in the Singapah valley.

31. I cheerfully endorse Captain Hughes' remarks upon his subordinate officers, Messrs. Hotham, Hannay, and Porter, while as to himself I have to say that he has shown great zeal and care in the conduct of his duties, and has given me every satisfaction.

Administration Report of Hill Tracts, Northern Arakan, for the year 1872-73,—No. 29, Political.

THIS report is submitted in accordance with the provincial rules, paragraph 11, prescribed by the late Chief Commissioner, Sir Arthur Phayre, for the administration of these tracts, and is divided into the following heads :—

A.—Physical description of the country and its inhabitants, known as the Hill Tracts of Arakan.

B.—Foreign : or our relations with tribes beyond the British Frontier, and raids during the year.

C.—Domestic : comprising all important measures and matters connected with the internal administration during the year, together with the usual civil and criminal justice reports, condensed.

2. The separate memoranda for this report, together with the statistical returns, have already been submitted.

3. This report will form the second one which has been submitted since the introduction of the new system of administration sanctioned in July 1871.

A.—PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.

4. Nearly all that is at present known regarding the manners and customs of the hill-men having been treated of in former reports, this portion, to avoid repetition, will be necessarily brief.

5. The geographical boundaries of the Hill Tracts, as distinguished from the administrative, may be roughly described as, on the

Geographical boundaries of the Hill Tracts of Arakan.

north and north-east, independent tribes, chiefly Lushais or Kukiçs and Shindoos or Lakkeys or Pooies separating the Arakan Frontier from Cachar and Munipore; Upper Burma, on the east; the Mawdaw Range in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on the west; and the Akyab District on the south.

Administrative boundaries.

6. The administrative boundaries within which rule and order are maintained were clearly shown in the map which accompanied my last report, and were coloured red, in contradistinction to the country inhabited by independent tribes, which was shown in blue.

7. The boundaries of the tracts under *direct* administration are—

North, an imaginary line drawn from the mouth of the Kolawah stream on the Koladan River due east and west, until it touches the water-shed of the Koladan River on the east, and the border of the Chittagong District on the west.

East and south-east, by an imaginary line running from the northern boundary in a south-easterly direction along the Kyouk Pandoung Range until the junction of the Rivers Mee and Tsamee, where there is a police post. From this point it follows another imaginary line almost due east to where the Rivers Peng and Lemroo join. Then due east along the water-shed of the Lemroo River until the junction of the Maw and Seng Rivers. It then follows the course of the latter river (which properly is termed the Than) until it joins the Lemroo, which river it again follows until its junction with the Rue, or Yaw, stream.

South, an imaginary line from this last point to the police post of Myouktoung on the Koladan River, from where it runs along the eastern bank of the Koladan River as far as the post of that name.

West, an imaginary line due west to the water-shed of the Pee River, from whence it runs north along the Mawdouk Range of hills to the point above named as to the west of Kolawah on the North-Western Frontier.

8. The official survey and map of the Akyab District known as "O'Donel's," indicates roughly the above boundaries; but in the absence of any definite lines of demarcation, it is difficult, with any regard to accuracy, to note the number of square miles which the above mountainous area covers: that

given by the Surveyor-General is 1,213 square miles; but this is, I think, much under the figure.

Physical description of the district.

9. The physical features of this tract of country are ranges of hills covered with dense tree and bamboo jungle, interspersed with mountain streams, which form the feeders of the two large rivers known as the Lemroo and Koladan. Valleys will be found in almost every direction penetrating these hills, and by following which you rise gradually to higher regions.

Mountains.

10. The height of the more prominent ranges average from 3,000 to 3,500 feet above the sea, though Captain Hotham found the crest of the Kyouk Pandoung Range with his aneroid to be near 4,500.

11. The general run of the rivers, as also the hills, is north and south, and the latter gradually become higher and higher as they recede from the former.

12. Within our boundaries there is the remarkable fact that almost the whole of these mountains are depopulated. The hill-men who formerly inhabited them have been driven down to settle on, and cultivate along, the banks of the large rivers. Pressure from stronger tribes above has forced them into this.

Rivers.

13. The two chief rivers in the Hill Tracts are the Koladan and the Lemroo. The exact source of both is unknown, but they rise far north in the country of independent tribes, and, after running between 200 and 300 miles through British territory, both empty themselves into the Bay of Bengal at Akyab. The Koladan is a very picturesque river, and is open to large boats throughout the year as far as 140 miles from its mouth, and to a steamer of light draught to the foot of the hills. The Lemroo is, on the contrary, rather an impracticable stream, with no striking scenery along it until the heart of the hills is reached.

14. The confluents or feeders of these two rivers are,—of the Koladan, the Mee, Pee, Paluk, and Kola; and of the Lemroo, the Peng, Rue or Yaw, Wet, and Than.

Tributary tribes within the British boundary enumerated.

15. The Koladan and its tributaries within the British boundary are peopled exclusively by four races of hill-men as noted below:—

(1)—The Chyoungthas.
(2)—The Khwaymies or Quaymee.
(3)—Mros.
(4)—Chaws.

16. A brief notice of each in their order will suffice.

Chyoungthas, and their history as to how they come to settle in the hills.

17. The Chyoungthas are, there is little question, descended direct from the Arakanese, and acquire this name merely from the fact that they have almost for an uninterrupted period of three centuries lived and cultivated on the banks of the River Koladan. The appellation Chyoungtha simply means the "child of the stream," from (ချောင်း) a stream or river, and (သား) a child. I say "almost uninterrupted," because when Burma conquered Arakan, two-thirds of the Chyoungthas then on the Koladan, who could no longer brook the tyranny and oppression of their new rulers, emigrated to Chittagong; but since (in 1826) Arakan was annexed by the British Government there has been a gradual return of this tribe to their old haunts in these hills. Strict Buddhists at one period, like their brethren in the plains, constant and daily intercourse with, and living amongst, races who only worship the elements, spirits, and streams, has induced them to relax and almost abandon the strict tenets of the sacred Guadama, and they have to all intents and purposes been transformed into hill-men. Evidence—oral, written, and ocular—is before me in the shape of the remains of pagodas, allusion in old records to the sites of what once were towns, with even the walls of one still existing, corroborated by the statements of the oldest inhabitants, to show that at one period Arakanese influence swayed far higher up in the hills than we at present control. The number of the Chyoungthas is about 1,054, and this number is again subdivided into twelve clans. Their own story of how they came to settle in the hills is, that one of the old Kings of Arakan selected from among his Arakanese subjects the bravest and hardiest, in order to control the hill-men of the Koladan, and who are now represented by the present race of Chyoungthas. At the same time, a similar number were deputed to control the wild "Chins" of the Lemroo, and the remnant of whom are to be found now along the Taluk and Aeng in Arakan.

Khwaymies or Quaymees, and their clans.

18. The Khwaymies or Quaymees may, with the Mros, be assumed as the aborigines of these hills. It is only within the last thirty to forty years that they have *in toto* exchanged their mountain homes for the banks of the River Koladan and its tributaries. Doubtless pressure from stronger tribes higher up, and the advantages of rice, salt, fish, and other necessaries have combined

to effect this move. They numbered about 4,755, and are again sub-divided into nineteen different clans, with a distinct name and chief for each. It is curious to note how the numerically stronger clans have maintained their position on the north, while the weaker ones have receded towards the plains. Thus, the two most powerful clans, known as the Tancrine and Ahboung, have had their villages on and beyond the Northern Frontier for years.

Mros.

19. The Mros live on a tributary of the Koladan, called the Mee. In language, manners, social usages, and dress, there is but little distinction between them and the Quaymees. Their number on the Mee is 1,540, and formerly they lived on the hills at the source of the Tsamee River. Their position is an extremely weak one, exposed as it is to attacks from Shindoos and independent tribes on the Northern, and to the incursions of Lay Mro Chins on the Eastern, Frontier.

The Mros, the weakest of all the Hill Tribes.

20. The Mros from time immemorial have been regarded as the lowest in the scale of physical strength among the hill tribes, and have within the last thirty years been more harassed, and had a greater number of war captives taken from them, than the others. Even now their villages, though adjoining police posts, have constructed up a high tree a palisaded, musket-proof nest, connected with the village by a bamboo ladder, which serves men, women and children as a city of refuge in case of sudden attack, while more than one village, to propitiate and keep on terms with the independent tribes, pay tribute to them as well as to the Government.

21. The Mros are, like the Quaymees, sub-divided into several distinct clans. On the Mee River are also located a clan of the Quaymee, Khwaymie, or Kumi family, called Quaymee Shattoos (*i.e.* the Shattoo clan, or one of the nineteen of the large family of Quaymees), about 130 houses in all. Their language is precisely the same as the Quaymees of the Koladan, and their manly forms and intelligent features contrast in a marked manner with the dwarfed, unintellectual-looking Mro.

Several names given to the Quaymee or Khwaymie clan.

22. I may here note, for the sake of clearness, that this name Khwaymie, Kumie, Kwemi, or Khoomie is all one, and includes one large hill race of that appellation, and that the term both in the Mro, as *also* Khamie, Koomie, or Kumi language, means simply "man."

23. Some years back there lived another race of Mros called "Toung Mros," on the tributaries of the Koladan, but they have of late almost all disappeared into the Akyab District. The race is a distinct one from the Mros of the "Mee."

Chaws.

24. The "Chaws" are a branch of the Kukie family, and tradition says that they were offered as pagoda slaves by one of the former queens of Arakan. Under Arakanese rule they used to keep clean and in order those pagodas in the Hill Tracts erected, together with two others at Ooreetoung and near Akyab, about three or four centuries back by Queen Tsoma-gyee.

There is only one village of the tribe, and who formerly lived near the junction of the "Salah" with the Koladan River lying outside our frontier, numbering about thirty houses; but this year they have moved to almost within our boundary. Their language is a distinct one, and, unlike all the other tributary tribes referred to, they bury, and do not burn, their dead, and also tie their hair at the back somewhat resembling the Cingalese.

Tributary tribes of the Lemroo Division.

25. I shall now pass on to the tributary hill tribes inhabiting the Lemroo River and its confluents, who may be said to consist solely of Chins, or Khyns, and a few Mros, who live there with the *permission* of the Chins.

Chins or Khyns.

26. The Chins or Khyns of the Lemroo are admitted to be the most backward and wild of all the hill tribes, which is doubtless owing to their having been left without hardly any European supervision. They inhabit the valleys and high ranges of hills separating Burma Proper from Arakan, and in dress, manners, and the practice of tattooing the faces of their women, resemble the Chins of Burma. Our tributary Chins of the Lemroo number about 2,000.

27. I am making inquiries with a view of ascertaining what connection, if any, there is between the language of the Lemroo Chins and those of Burma Proper in the Prome and Myanoung Districts.

Strong affinity between the language spoken by the Karens of Burma and the Quaymees of the hills of Arakan.

28. From the affinity that exists between the Quaymee language and the Karen, there is every reason to suppose that at one period both these large hill races of British Burma must have been congregated together, and that when domestic animals were introduced—for instance, the names for

dog, cat, buffaloe and elephant, are substantially identical, as also the words moon, star, fire, water, stone, bird, fish, tiger, bee, egg, eye, ear, nose.

No striking difference between the social life and customs of all the hill tribes.

29. There is on the whole great similarity in the customs of the five divisions of hill-men who have been above treated of; their religion, feasts, method of agriculture, social usages anent debt, marriage, and divorce, differ but little, and in saying this I have, I think, said enough, as details of the same have been already fully described by Sir Arthur Phayre, Captain Duncan, Mr. St. John, and others.

Their character.

30. The character of the aborigines of these hills is much affected by their situation, and the further north one goes the more honest and straightforward, though not without cunning, are the people; while again those nearer the plains are gradually imbibing the tricky ways of their civilized brethren; but, considering that it is only within the last few years that they have been under the direct influence of officers permanent in the hills, it is surprising that they have preserved and retained, to the extent they have, their reputation, as a rule, for truth and honesty. What distrust they have in us, is the result of their past dealings with a people whom they know deceive them. By nature cruel, excitable, turbulent, and hasty, they require a firm, determined, but considerate rule.

B.—Foreign.

The trans-frontier and non-tributary tribes.

31. The trans-frontier or non-tributary tribes, whose power for good or bad so greatly affects the peace or otherwise of these Hill Tracts, are—

(1)—The Lushais or Kukies.
(2)—Shindoos.
(3)—Koons.
(4)—Chins or Khyns.
(5)—Kongsons.

32. During the year under review the progress made towards opening out communication with the trans-frontier tribes has been not as progressive as I would have wished, though a fair commencement has been made. I shall briefly allude to each of these tribes in the order above given, and note what has been done in the above line.

The Lushais.

33. As regards the Lushais, they are too remote to be brought under any influence from Arakan side; but it is satisfactory to record that

neither directly or indirectly have they been mixed up in any raids within these Hill Tracts. Unquestionably, reminiscences of the Lushai Expedition at present exercise a healthy and salutary influence over them.

The Shindoos or Pooles.

34. Endeavours to open up communication with the Shindoos have been so far encouraging that in April one Labbu, the brother of the chief of the powerful clan known as the Shindoo Boukey, was induced to come to Palukwan, the headquarters of the district, and visit the Superintendent with several other independent chiefs. They were all hospitably entertained, and on their part went through the ceremony of one of their most binding oaths among the hill tribes, by which the chief for the future engaged that none of his clan should join in raids, or purchase war captives taken in raids, on British territory. This clan has, of all the Shindoos, taken a most active part in raids committed within the British frontier in past years, and I am sanguine of the good that will attend the visit of the chief, provided that it is followed up by a strong policy.

No great reliance can be attached to the oaths of Hill Chiefs.

35. On such oaths the past history of hill tribes show that it would be a mistake to attach much reliance; and if the chiefs have the wish to carry them out, they do not enjoy that power over their tribes as to render their word absolute.

The prospects encouraging of further opening up communication with, and influencing, the Shindoos.

36. Now that the ice has once been broken, it is reasonable to expect that the example of the way in which the Boukey Shindoo Chiefs were received will induce those of the stronger clans further north to emerge from their past seclusion, and avail themselves of our trade and friendship. Some of those who arrived on this occasion fully were of opinion that they would never return with their heads on their shoulders. The reason why in recent years we have failed in all our endeavours to know more of, and meet, the chiefs of a clan whom different war captives recovered from them describe as above 8,000 souls, is simply because our tributary chiefs to the north have all more or less an honest and wholesome dread of the Shindoos, on account of the past raids committed on their hearths and homes by these marauders. Hence they do their best to frustrate any effort to open up communication, and purposely mislead them as to our intentions. In fact, though our own tributary tribes are gradually putting a little confidence in us, at present they fear the Shindoos

far more ; and this, to any one conversant with facts, and living in these hills, is not surprising.

Inaccessibility of even the nearest Shindoo Tribes from our present Frontier.

Lastly, the isolated position and inaccessibility of even the nearest Shindoo tribes to our frontier adds to our difficulty of making any impression on them. It is a matter of eight days' journey from Dalukmay to the nearest Shindoo village.

37. In a similar manner, their wild state, as generally represented, is much over-colored. Judging from the accounts afforded by captives who have made their escape, some of the Shindoo tribes are, for aborigines, in an advanced state of society. The men live in good wooden, planked houses, keep ponies for riding, and both sexes dress well, and trade a little with Upper Burma.

38. It will, however, be a work of patience and of time before we can hope to obtain anything approaching a satisfactory relationship with them, in consequence of their being divided into so many distinct and separate clans, of whom the most powerful are the Toung Sats and Moung Dus towards the north, and whose territory abuts on Upper Burma.

39. What is necessary is, to make them clearly realize the fact that we possess the *means* to punish, and that behind our trade is a good supply of men and ammunition with which we mean to protect our frontier and subjects, and that good behaviour on their part will secure for them our friendship.

The Koons now completely amenable to our influence.

40. The independent tribe of Koons, who have hitherto been a thorn in the administration of these hills, are now, I may say, almost completely under our influence and control, and have during the year proved useful allies, and ratified by their conduct the agreement they last year made, as noted in paragraph 52 of the Report for that year. But over such a dangerous and tricky tribe, whose central position between us and the Shindoos renders them the more so, constant and unremitting attention has and will have to be bestowed as long as they occupy their present position. Edged tools are proverbially dangerous, and the Koons are no exception to the rule.

Chins.

41. The Chins or Khyns are, compared with the other tribes, comparatively strangers to us; but far more information is in our possession this year than last regarding them, and there is full

evidence and facts to show that between Upper Burma and Arakan, *viâ* the independent Chin tribes of the Lemroo, a fair trade in cattle, betel-boxes, gongs, and stick-lac ware passes, and that without great difficulty a route to Upper Burma could be opened out from near the Upper Lemroo Guard. The Chins of the Lemroo have joined in no raids on British territory during the year, while a few of their chiefs, owing to the presence of a European officer, have been induced to seek our friendship, avail themselves of our bazaars, and assist with information.

42. The Kong Songs have given no trouble during the year, and have availed themselves freely of the Government bazaar started on the Mee.

43. Having treated of the trans-frontier tribes, the raids and attempts committed *within* the British frontier will first be noted, and second, the same *without* our boundary.

Raids within the British Frontier during the year.

44. Of raids within the district during the year, only one has to be recorded, and this was committed in the Lemroo Division by one village of Tributary Chins, or Khyns, on another. It was attended with no bloodshed, and the captives, seven in number, who were carried off, were all recovered and restored to their relatives through the prompt action displayed by Mr Inspector Porter, of the Police in the adjoining district.

Origin of this raid, and result.

45. A trivial dispute about a cow was the cause of the Chins, who considered themselves injured, thus taking the law into their own hands, they alleging that they had no officer whom they could look up to with confidence for the disposal of such disputes, and further pleaded immemorial custom. As there was a fair substratum of truth in this, the officer then in charge of the current duties of Superintendent did not deem it expedient or right, as they had returned the captives, to view the offence of these wild savages with greater severity than by reprimanding them. Since this raid, Mr. Inspector Porter has been placed at the disposal of the police of the Hill Tracts, and located in the Lemroo, where he has done much good towards gaining the confidence and good will of these little-known Chins. It is only right that I should add that a raid of this feature was what I anticipated when I penned paragraphs 28, 29, and 30 of my last year's report. An officer who has the confidence of the hill-men will generally be the means of settling a dispute, often as ima-

ginary as real, before it developes into bloodshed and raiding.

Attempts at raids.

46. Of attempts at raids there has been one, which was in January last, when a large war party of the Yaling Shindoos crossed our Northern Frontier with the intention of attacking the only police guard on the Mee, to which river their camps were tracked right down by the Dalukmay Police under Mr. Hannay. Captain Hotham, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, then in charge of this portion of these hills, through his active measures and vigilance, was, however, successful in warding off a raid. Doubtless the Shindoos thought that they were going to repeat the *coup* of 1870, when they raided the Penwet village on this river, killing four and carrying off thirty captives, of whom only three have as yet been recovered.

The vigorous supervision of European Officers on the Lemroo and Mee warded off raids within our boundary.

47. Constant patrolling across the centre of the Shindoo and Chin raiding-paths, with one European officer permanent on the Mee and one on the Lemroo, has alone tended to preserve the peace of the tributary villages within the Eastern Frontier. The Mros of the Mee only require the time and opportunity, as the next paragraph will show, to retaliate for three or four heavy raids committed on them within the last eight years by Lemroo Chins and Shindoos, in which they have had above eighty war captives carried off and near twenty killed. Such a petty warfare among races who never forget or forgive only forcibly points out what unremitting care it is necessary to bring to bear upon them, for they are not such as can be healed or patched up in a year or series of years.

Raids without the British boundary.

48. The raids without our boundary have also been light as compared with last year. The heaviest was one committed by some non-tributary Mros on a Chin non-tributary village above the Upper Guard on the Lemroo, and in this raid three persons were killed and fifteen made prisoners. It arose out of the ancient feud existing between the Lemroo Chins and the Mros of the Mee, alluded to in the preceding paragraph, and I am afraid that some of our own tributary Mros took part in it.

49. The Chin Chief of the village raided by the Mros came in and begged for assistance towards the recovery of his captured relatives; but as he was a non-tributary, and without the administrative boundary, it could not of course be granted.

Slaves and their classes in the Tracts.

50. Above 24 slaves have been set at liberty during the year. These slaves may be divided into three classes:—

(1.) War captives, or those taken in raids.

(2.) Debtor-slaves in lieu of satisfaction of debt, by which the person becomes the menial of the creditor until his liabilities are liquidated.

(3.) Slaves who have become so in default of making good their debts lost in gambling.

As regards the first, eight have been set free, though in instances where no good could accrue by doing so they have remained in *statu quo*. For instance, there are throughout the hills several captives who have been in the hands of their owners for years, who, oblivious of, or having outlived most of, their relatives, have become to all intents and purposes a part and parcel of the domestic hearth. In such cases it would be unwise as it would be cruel to interfere. Again, too, great haste in setting free debtor-slaves has also to be avoided, as this system of satisfaction of debt has from time immemorial been the custom, and it will be the work of time before we can expect that the substitute we offer for it in the shape of our Civil Code, and *to them* its complex procedure, can be duly appreciated or regarded as just by the aborigines of the hills. Where a debtor-slave asks for his release, of course one is bound to take action; but that is very different to unnecessarily raking up and interfering *suo motu*.

Gambling leads to slavery.

51. It requires a permanent residence for some time in these hills to in reality appreciate the misery and harm which this vice of gambling, imported from the civilized plains, has brought on the otherwise simple hill-man. In fine, much discrimination is necessary before taking the initiative in cases of slavery, and the best-intentioned philanthropist may do much harm under the belief that he is alleviating human suffering

Eight slaves taken in past raids restored to their relatives in Bengal.

52. Of the war captives recovered, eight have been despatched to their relatives in villages within the Comillah and Chittagong Districts, from which they were originally raided and sold by Lushais and Shindoos to our tributaries and non-tributaries.

No successful raid perpetrated during the year, nor a captive retained.

53. The substance of this most important head of the report is, therefore, that no successful raids have been effected during the year, for neither has a single captive been

retained nor has any bloodshed been committed within the Hill Tracts District.

The consequences of the fixing of definite administrative boundaries for the Hill Tracts.

54. As a result of the fixing of boundaries within which order and rule are to be maintained, and the lives of our subjects respected, there has, as I anticipated in paragraph 45 of my last year's report, been during the year a marked tendency on the part of several of the independent tribes to move towards our frontier, and within it; and this is exemplified to such an extent on the Northern Frontier, that now five miles beyond the frontier we have no villages between us and the Shindoos, with the exception of the Koons.

55. The above noteworthy fact as regards trans-frontier tribes on the Northern has also taken place on the South-Eastern Frontier above the junction of the Tsamee and Mee, as well as on the Eastern or the Lemroo Frontier,—facts which speak strongly as to the conviction entertained by the independent tribes that within and adjoining our boundary they enjoy enhanced protection. Many others would come were it not that the localities they wish to cultivate and settle on we are unable at present to protect. Another result of demarcating frontier boundaries, and one not to be lost sight of, is also that raids among the trans-frontier tribes will probably be more numerous than were heretofore.

C.—Domestic

Population and revenue.

56. The total population of the district for the past year is computed at about 10,000 souls, and the following table exhibits the numbers of the several tributary tribes within the boundaries, and the proportion of males to females :—

Detailed classification of Races.	Males.	Females.	Total.
European	4	...	4
Chyoungthas	557	497	1,054
Arakanese	202	144	346
Koomies	2,472	2,283	4,755
Mros	893	754	1,647
Anoos	17	10	27
Chins	960	800	1,760
Chaws or Kukies	...	...	...
Burmese	30	19	49
Munipooreans	63	27	90
Hindoos	5	...	5
Mussulmans	51	4	55
Shindoos	2	...	2
Total ...	5,256	4,538	9,794

57. Almost the whole of the population are *jhoom* or *toungya* cutters, and in their jungle clearings, on the rich soil formed from the ashes of the timber burnt at the commencement of the rains, are sown cotton, paddy, sesamum seeds, and a miscellaneous crop of pumpkins, melons, Indian corn, and other vegetables. On the termination of the rains the hill-men turn their attention to tobacco culivation, which is pursued by them on the rich deposits forming the alluvial soil of the banks of the River Koladan and its feeders.

Wasteful process of cultivation.

58. Quite unaware of the havoc they are committing, hundreds and hundreds of acres of fine forests are thus ruthlessly felled, and the timber, except for the purpose of manure, remains unutilized.

59. A special report on the tobacco cultivation has just been sent in, and which, as well as the cotton, admits of much development. At present both only find a local sale, as the hitherto disturbed state of the Hill Tracts has prevented traders from coming up in any large number, as likewise the hill-men from steadily extending their cultivation.

The cotton and tobacco cultivation and curing open to improvement. Sample of former sent to Bombay favourably reported on.

60. I incline to the belief that eventually both will find a good market, as the cotton is said to be superior to that received from other parts of Burma. The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, writes me word to say that a small sample sent him "gives him the impression that the cotton is superior to ordinary Bengal cotton, but that the sample was too small to base a definite opinion on."

Average rate of sale of tobacco and cotton.

61. The price of cotton ranged during the year from 10*s.* to 12*s* a maund of 80lb, and tobacco at present sells from 6*d.* to 10*d.* (according to the quality) a seer, or 2lb.

62. Some teak seed has been sent me for experimentalizing with, and I am sanguine it will succeed, and the hill-men will be persuaded to sow it in their *jhooms.*

Approximate yield of cotton.

63. From rough statistics kept, it is calculated that from about 10,000 to 12,000 maunds of cotton were exported during the year, and the outturn of tobacco this season promises to be large and good.

64. The whole amount of the revenue derived from the district this year was only Rs. 3,528-7-0. The highest item of tax is Rs. 3 a family, which is paid by one race of hill-men, while the lowest is Re. 1, which is paid by all others. The

incidence of taxation as at present levied causes some discontent, and is open to much improvement.

Revenue only collected within our boundaries.

65. Revenue is now strictly collected within our boundaries, and the several items comprising the sum total are shown in the comparative statement for the years 1871-72 and 1872-73 :—

	1871-72.	1872-73.	Increase.	Decrease.
Land Revenue	... 156	153	...	3
Toungya	... 580	607	27	
Capitation Tax	... 1,329	1,337	8	...
Tribute	... 1,146	1,531	285	...
Abkaree	... 25	...	...	25
Timber Duty	... 93	...	...	93
Miscellaneous	... 418	474	56	...
Total	... 3,747	4,002	376	121

66. The increase is chiefly due to more accurate information being now obtained of the hill villages and their inhabitants than heretofore.

Timber Forests considered worthy of inspection and report.

67. There has been nothing collected under "timber duty" this year. There is little question that there is a large quantity of good, useful timber in these hills; and the Chief Commissioner has been pleased to direct that a subordinate officer of the Forest Department report on the timber and teak. One forest of the last named is known to exist.

Distinct proof exists that in past ages some of the Hill Tribes enjoyed proprietary rights to their tenures.

68. In past years there is distinct proof that the Chyoungthas and Chins exercised proprietary rights to the soil within certain boundaries; and I have before me a copy of a royal edict 130 years old from one of the wives of the Arakanese officials, noting within what limits a clan of Chyoungthas were to enjoy the sole right to the soil. The order in question refers to fertile land a long distance to the north of our present administrative boundary, and beyond the Salah Chyoung.

This right even now recognized.

69. To the present day the Chins and Chyoungthas exercise this right by demanding from the hill villages within their land-marks a certain small percentage on the crops, or, in lieu of the same, pigs or cattle.

Tribunals.

70. There were two Judicial Officers in the district during the year, both exercising civil and criminal powers, viz., the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Hill Tribes.

Judicial and Administrative officers during the year.

71. The office of Superintendent was held throughout the year by Captain W. G. Hughes, Madras Staff Corps, Assistant Commissioner, 1st class, and Officiating Deputy Commissioner of the 4th grade in British Burma. That of Assistant was held by a native named Oo Gazan, also throughout the year.

Powers of Superintendent, Hill Tribes.

72. The Superintendent's powers are analogous to those of a District Magistrate and Collector. Under Section 35 of Act X of 1872, he can also try all cases under the Indian Procedure Code but those punishable with death.

73. The Assistant Superintendent, in criminal matters, exercises the powers of a Magistrate of the 3rd class; and in civil, the powers of a court of the 4th grade as defined in Act I of 1861.

74. The district is not divided into sub-divisions—it would be desirable if it were. The area over which the courts exercise jurisdiction is about 1,213 square miles, and the furthest village from a court-house is 70 miles, and the average distance, 30.

75. The table below shows the number of cases instituted and decided on the civil side during the year 1872 as compared with previous years:—

Class of Courts.	Instituted.		Disposed of.	
	1871.	1872.	1871.	1872.
Captain W. G. Hughes, Superintendent of Hill Tribes	16	14	16	14
Oo Gazan, Assistant Superintendent of Hill Tribes	21	14	21	14
Total	37	28	37	28
Decrease ..	...	9	...	9

Nature of suits.

76. All of the suits but one were of a nature cognizable by a court of small causes.

Necessity of carefully watching the result of awards of Hill Chiefs when appointed as Arbitrators.

77. As many cases as possible are either referred to arbitration, or the Court of the Superintendent, assisted by the more influential chiefs, after hearing the opinion of the

elders, passes orders on the same. This precludes their drifting towards some of their old and absurd usages, which still exercise a stong fascination in their minds. As an instance, in a case of disputed debt last month, the arbitrators came, after much pondering, to the decision that it was best to resort to their old custom of disposing of the matter by the ordeal of "ducking," which consists in the plaintiff and defendant both keeping their heads under water, and whoever comes up first loses the case. When I tried to convince them that the man who had the best pair of lungs, and could keep his breath in longest, must win, they merely laughed, and said, "Oh! but we have always found this custom and usage a popular one among us." It is yet a problem for solution whether, after all, in disputed cases this toss-up kind of system of bringing the matter to an issue is not a preferable one to that so often practised by natives in our Indian Courts, of going in to win on trumped-up and perjured evidence. I have, however, unfortunately remarked that the man whose clan, as regards status and position, is the most powerful, by some curious coincidence generally won.

No Pleaders or Vakeels have visited the Hills.

78. The memorable impression conveyed to the hill-men of the native bar, from last year's experience, was such a bad one that they fight shy altogether of pleaders, and none, much to the good of the hill-men, have been employed in the hills during the year.

79. There were no appeals on the civil side, and only one on the criminal.

Court of Superintendent not bound by the Procedure Codes.

80. As laid down in the provisional rules, the procedure of the Civil, Indian Penal, and Criminal Procedure Codes is followed as far as possible by the Superintendent, though he is not bound by these codes; while the usages and customs of the hill races are strictly conformed to as long as the same are not inconsistent with morality or equity.

81. Many more cases would appear in court than do at present were it not that, as the Superintendent is the only judicial officer on the Koladan, the hill-men with disputes from remote villages are averse to coming so far. They require quick and sharp justice, or none at all.

The Hill Tribes not yet prepared for the adoption of our regular procedure.

82. There is not a question of doubt but that the hill tribes of Arakan are no exception to other wild races in this respect, that they prefer as much as possible having

their disputes settled quickly and patriarchally, rather than adopt the routine which occupies time, and is incidental to our regular procedure codes. To force upon a hill-man, in his present stage, and without the smallest knowledge of writing, the procedure and written formula required by our courts, would be to place him in the generality of cases quite at the mercy of a class of native officials who consider him fair game to practice their sharpness on, and thus render him unmanageable, and apt to take the law into his own hands.

Criminal Justice.

83. The following statement shows the total number of offences reported during the year, and the number brought to trial and convicted, as compared with the previous one :—

	No. of offences reported.	Number of persons under trial during the year.	Convicted.
1871	31	46	22
1872	41	68	46
Increase ...	10	22	24

84. Below is shown the number disposed of during 1872 as compared with 1871 :—

	Persons disposed of.				
	Discharged without trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Committed or referred.	Died, escaped or transferred.
1871	1	19	19	3	
1872	4	18	46	...	
Increase ...	3	...	27	...	
Decrease ...	...	1	...	3	

85. Rs. 516 was inflicted as fines in 1872, as against Rs. 604-10-0 in 1871, and the amount realized is shown thus :—

	Total amount of Fines.	Amount realized.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1871	604 10 0	474 10 0
1872	516 0 0	278 0 0
Increase	.....	.....
Decrease	88 10 0	196 10 0

The time-honored law of might being right nearly as strong as ever among the tribes.

86. No violent crime occurred within our boundaries, I am glad to say, during the year. The ever-ruling passion in the breast of the hill-men exists, however, as strong as ever, to avenge old sores by taking the law into their own hands; but they pause before doing so when under such circumspection as has of late been brought to bear upon them.

A few outlaws in the hills create some anxiety for peace of district.

87. At one period I was rather anxious lest there should be an outburst of internal crime, in consequence of a few designing outlaws who are at large in these hills having been plotted to influence the hill-men for the worse.

88. There was one case of manslaughter, which arose out of a row connected with a gambling transaction among two hill-men.

The defendant was a notorious bad character, and had been on his trial a few months previously before the Sessions Court of Arakan for the murder of Chief Kah Pan. The charge of "grievous hurt" was clearly proved, and he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Immediately sentence was passed, his relatives, so strong still is their love for "vendetta," publicly threatened that if the prisoner died in the Akyab Jail they would have "goung pow."

89. This case is but another instance of several of the baneful effects of gambling imparted to the hill-men solely by natives from the plains, and which has left such indelible marks of misery and crime in these hills.

90. Three slaves who have been mortgaged in default of payment of gambling debts were also set free by me during the year. Punishment for gambling is not in force, however, as the Commissioner is "apprehensive that it might be viewed as an alarming interference with the habits of the people."

Slaves mortgaged in previous years on account of gambling debts released.

91. There has been no change in the allocation of the police this year. The following table shows their distribution, while the several stations are indicated in the map which accompanied my report for last year:—

Police.

Name of Guards.	Inspector.			Head Constable.	Sergeants.		Constables.			Steermen.	Boatmen.
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.		1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.	3rd		
Dalukmay	...	...	...	1	...	1	15	51			
Palukwan	...	...	...	...	1	...	14	18	19		
Tsamee	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	13	3		
Sowa	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	9	4		
Myinthet	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	6		
Koladan	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	7		
Myouktoung	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	8		
Lower Lemroo...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	10	1		
Upper Lemroo...	1	...	...	...	1	...	5	16	3		
Koladan River Boat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Lemroo do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Total	1	...	...	1	4	4	45	124	51	2	6

92. The Superintendent of Hill Tribes is *ex-officio* Superintendent of Police.

93. Of the European element there has, as stated, been an additional officer stationed on the Lemroo since the commission of the raid in September noted in para. 44, and which, together with an officer on the Mee River, has been attended with the best results, and fully bears out the opinion express-

ed by the Commissioner of Arakan in November 1870, "that with a number of good European officers in these hills we might do good."

94. The matériel of the force admits of much improvement, consisting, as it necessarily now does, of many lazy, opium-smoking Arakanese or useless Bengalees, who but for their officers would wish to do *nil* beyond sitting down in their posts. An attempt was made, and with partial success, to recruit some hill-men (Ghoorkas and Munipooreans) in Tipperah and Cachar, which has rendered the force a more efficient one than it was; but very much yet remains to be done in this respect if only a little money was available.

Hill Tracts Police Force open to much improvement in its *matériel*.

95. It requires strong and sturdy mountaineers to stand the extremely hard work incidental to the police of this frontier, as the patrolling the lines of raiding-paths signifies marching for days in a mountainous tract of jungle, without villages or supplies; and men have constantly to be discharged from sickness. Arakan will never be able to supply efficient men, as the respectable natives of the plains almost regard service in the Hill Tracts as a penal duty, and we are thus thrown back on the residuum and scum of Akyab for men. The force has lately been furnished with 100 carbine cavalry-sized rifles, which, being light and portable, will add to its efficiency.

96. The number of men continually sick also greatly weakens the force. When an efficient Medical Officer (and an apothecary has been sanctioned) arrives, it will be no small gain to all in the district.

Efficiency of force much impared from men constantly going sick.

97. It would at present be undesirable to entertain more hill-men of the country, as their deep-grounded dread of "vendetta" is still so strong as to render them of little service beyond the duty of scouts, and this, unless in strong numbers, they are afraid to carry out.

Undesirable to at present entertain many hill-men.

98. As great a difficulty exists as ever for the carriage of supplies, &c., when the men are engaged in patrolling a line of country frequented by raiders without villages or means of obtaining food. The constant requisition for coolies in villages, though avoided as much as possible, is a source of much discontent, as though there is abundance of water communication, raiders *invariably* travel by land. I have endeavoured to obviate the evil and meet this state of things by obtaining mules from Calcutta, but have failed.

99. The composition of the Police of the Hill Tracts is seen by a glance at the table below—

Composition of force.

European	1
Chyoungthas, or Mramas	12
Quaymees	32
Chins	1
Munipooreans	49
Rajah Bunshies	43
Arakanese	51
Burmese	3
Ghoorkas and Tipperahs	26
Mussulmans	7
Hindoos	13
Total ...	238

100. In addition to the Superintendent's house and a lock-up sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner in his scheme of 1871 for the administration of these hills, a court-house has also been erected; and all the other "public buildings" are now completed at head-quarters with the grant of Rs. 5,000 set apart for the above purpose; some difficulty has been experienced in pushing on the work, for want of skilled labour, material, and supervision.

Public Works.
All the public buildings sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, with the exception of Magazine, completed during the year.

101. The house for the Assistant Superintendent at Dalukmay, on the Northern Frontier, is also nearly completed.

102. I regret to say that the magazine which paragraph 9 of the above scheme also ordered to be erected at head-quarters, is yet at a standstill. I have written more than once to Akyab on this important subject, and the Commissioner has again called on the Department Public Works to see to it.

Nothing yet done towards erection of Magazine.

103. Consequent on the abandonment of Myouktoung, at the foot of the hills, for Palukwan as the future head-quarters, the bazaar at the former place was more deserted than ever, so the Commissioner, on my recommendation, sanctioned its removal to Palukwan, where now two good bazaars have been started, and which will gradually, I hope, fill.

Bazaars and Trade.

104. Free trade, however, up the river admits of the hill-men purchasing nearly all they require but paddy, from trading boats alongside of their villages; and the boats in return carry off the tobacco or cotton crop which may be for sale, so we cannot expect well-stocked or full bazaars. I think that

such a state of things is healthy, provided this free trade is watched.

Trade in the hills requires judicious supervision or localization.

105. Doubtless it was uncontrolled free trade in past years which allowed of so many fire-arms, &c., finding their way among the wild tribes, and with which, now, to our cost, they inflict so much injury and cruelty.

106. Grain has, at great inconvenience to the hill-men, to be purchased by them from the plains, as they do not cultivate sufficient for their consumption, and villagers as far remote as those on the Northern Frontier have now to travel 100 miles to the plains in order to purchase this great necessary of life, while a falling off in the outturn of the rice crops so seriously effects the price of grain as to place it out of the power of the poorer class to buy sufficient.

Large quantity of salt imported.

107. Salt, which together with "the necessaries of life" it is our avowed object to render the independent tribes dependent on the Government for, is imported to the extent of 12,000 maunds annually into the district, chiefly by traders from the coast, who now sell it where and in what quantity they like.

Two new bazaars started on the Mee and Lemroo.

108. Two new bazaars, with the assistance of a small loan from Government, have also been started during the year on the North-East, and Eastern Frontier, viz., on the Mee and Lemroo; but owing to the withdrawal of the Assistant on the Mee, the bazaar has languished away to nothing.

Difficulty of inducing traders to open up bazaars in the remote portion of the Hill Tracts is very great.

109. It is extremely difficult to induce or find respectable traders with capital to open out bazaars at the more isolated parts of the district, such as the Lemroo and upper portion of the Mee; though men of straw from the plains are legion who would be willing to reap a rapid harvest by cheating and doing the hill-men. The Chins on the Lemroo are so wild that the few traders who do come up have to be escorted by police.

110. The outturn of cotton, estimated at about 12,000 maunds, was all bought up by native traders. If the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, report favourably on a basket of about 20lbs. (as the previous sample was too small) which I sent, there will doubtless be a demand for it, and an additional incentive to a large increase of cultivation.

Approximate outturn of tobacco crops.

111. The same may be said as regards the tobacco, the outturn of which this season promises to be, on rough calculation, over 25,000 maunds.

112. It is unfortunate that the most luxuriant valleys where indigo, cotton, tobacco, sesamum, and ginger would grow best, are shut to the people—viz., those on the east bank of the Koladan and to the north of Dalukmay,—because nearly all the villages hereto which have been settled in these parts have been raided. Hence the east bank of the river, embracing an area of several hundred square miles, is totally deserted; the hill-men having gone over to the west side, as the Shindoos, who live on the east, will not cross water above their middle, and are entirely ignorant of boating.

Agriculture, produce and labour.

113. As will be gleaned from what has been already written, cotton, tobacco, sessamum seed, ivory, and bamboos form the chief exports.

Imports.

114. The imports are salt, rice, gongs, brass bowls, copper trinkets, &c.

115. There is no skilled labour in the hills, but unskilled is four annas (sixpence) a day. The amount of fatigue and physical strength which the hill-man possesses is astonishing, and no form of manual labour is to him too severe.

116. With the exception of about 30 acres, there is no ploughed land in the Hill Tracts.

117. *Health.*—Longevity would appear the rule among the people; but doubtless the normal state of internicine warfare in which the different tribes of the Hill Tracts have of late years revelled in has much to say to the sparseness of population.

Hill population, regarded *en masse*, is increasing.

118. The aborigines as a rule are, however, decidedly prolific, and there is not a doubt but that the population is yearly increasing. The only check to it is a form of infanticide by the occasional exposing of illegitimate children, and leaving them in a basket attached to a tree.

119. The year under review has been specially free from epidemics of small-pox or cholera, which from time to time inflict so much havoc among the people. At one period I was apprehensive lest cholera might, through the Lushais, be communicated to this district.

Leprosy common.

120. Skin diseases of a very nasty form, and leprosy, are, I regret to say, very common. No reason can be assigned, as the people as a rule are naturally very cleanly, and exempt from venereal disease.

Ill success of the Dispensary.

121. A good Dispensary has been erected during the year, but little good has as yet accrued from it, as, of three successive Native Doctors

who have been placed in medical charge of the Hill Tracts, one refused to join at all, while another had to go sick after a few months, and the third, also, through sickness, has been obliged to absent himself at Akyab nearly half his time, leaving the district to do the best it could. There is not a doubt but that the presence of the Apothecary now sanctioned will be a great boon to officers and men, and render it unnecessary for them, much to the detriment of the public service, to proceed sick to Akyab—there being by no means a superabundance of either.

Much harm done by quacks.

122. Professors of medicine in the shape of quacks do much harm by imposing on the credulous hill-man (who has not the slightest knowledge of the art) with drugs, charms and occasionally witchcraft. I trust that this will be obviated when the District Dispensary has an intelligent Apothecary. Several cases which now come for relief, a Native Hospital Assistant is necessarily incompetent to deal with.

123. *Political.*—The progress made towards opening out communication with the Shindoos and other independent tribes, and also the satisfactory relations that have during the year been maintained with hitherto the most troublesome of them, viz., the Koons and Boukey Shindoos, have already been recorded, and I will only here express the hope that the efforts initiated in this respect will bear good results in the future, and, if judiciously followed up, have no doubt but that they will.

An imperial defence ordered.

124. During the year the orders of the Chief Commissioner forwarding a series of papers from the Supreme Government and Government of Bengal anent the future frontier defence to be organized from Cachar to Arakan, and the opening up of communication between the Arakan and Chittagong Hill Tracts, were duly disposed of.

125. After effecting a junction with Captain Lewin on the Sungoo, and a careful consideration, based on existing facts and an acquaintance with the country, as to how the orders of the respective Governments as contained in the papers could be best given effect to as to a "frontier defence," a report was submitted on—

1*st*.—Quoting the words of the correspondence, "as to establishing communication between Chittagong and Arakan."

2nd.—" The more important question of connecting the line of posts for frontier defence, which will probably lie long the Ohipoom Range, with similar posts in the Arakan Hills.

126. The first object was simple enough, and was arranged by us on the Sungoo River in January, but in no way forms a frontier defence, and is purely and simply a means of communication, such as the Chief Commissioner wished.

The second was one which, in order to organize, involved questions of large additional expenditure, an increase to the present force in the Hill Tracts, and a slight extension of the existing administrative boundary on the Northern Frontier. As the Chief Commissioner has passed his orders on the whole subject, it is sufficient to note here that the survey and exploration were efficiently carried out by Mr. Hannay, Assistant Superintendent of Police, along the line of country, and up to the point called Kookradoung, referred to in the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India's letter marginally noted, and lying to the north-west of our so-called frontier post of Dalukmay. Up to this point Mr. Cooke, attached to Captain Lewin, had surveyed. The duty was an arduous one, as the survey had to be carried through a line of country without villages, and, further than being known as the centre of Shindoo and Lushai raiding-paths, was almost a *terra incognita* to British Burma. Hill coolies, ready at any time to bolt, added somewhat to the difficulty of the position. However, Mr. Hannay, after an absence of three weeks, brought it to a successful issue, and struck the new post on the Chittagong Hill Tracts near Polee Tye, where he met Lieutenant Gordon, the officer in charge of the Toungoo Sub-division. The chart of the survey and report have been duly submitted, and I only regret that both for want of proper instruments and a more skilful surveyor, were not rendered more perfect and instructive.

No. 1883 P, of the 4th September last, para. 8.

127. This survey, together with a fair path cut between the Sungoo River and Dalukmay, was completed for Rs. 2,000, and without any increase of the executive staff besides an overseer of coolies on Rs. 80 a month.

128. There being no recognized native territory dividing the Hill Tracts of Arakan from British territory, and there being no boundary-pillars, the orders of Government, No. 1758, dated 21st August 1871, on the subject, would not appear to apply to this portion of British Burma.

129. No Legislative Enactment was extended to the Hill Tracts during the year. The question of a code for their administration is still pending. At present it is uncertain as to what Acts are in force, and what are not.

130. A draft of rules which experience showed was urgently called for in order to stop ammunition and arms finding their way into the hands of frontier and trans-frontier tribes, was drawn up and submitted.

131. *Archæology.*—There is little to be said on this head further than that there exist in the Hill Tracts the remains of what were once large towns and pagodas, which furnish distinct proof thatsome centuries ago Buddhist supremacy swayed higher up the region of these hills than we at present occupy. Those within our boundaries are now for the first time almost since their decay, being again visited by pious Arakanese from the plains.

132. No buildings or structures are, however, extant to throw any light on the history of the aborigines.

133. *Miscellaneous.*—The Chief Commissioner, in June 1871, came up in the steamer *Ava* to the foot of the hills as far as Myouktoung, beyond which the water was too shallow to allow of proceeding further.

134. At the close of the year orders were received for the pension of the Assistant to the Superintendent of Hill Tracts—a native named Oo Gazan, who, after some years' good service, was found too old and worn-out for active work. His place has been filled by another native as an Assistant Superintendent, Hill Tracts.

Influential Chiefs rewarded for good service.

135. For assistance rendered by the well-disposed and influential chiefs, the Chief Commissioner was pleased to order percussion muskets to be awarded. Some of them have also been borne on the Police rolls as scouts, and are of much aid in controlling the people and affording information.

136. I was enabled during the year of report, and after my return from the Chittagong Frontier, to visit nearly the whole of the Hill Tracts, including the Lemroo, and chiefly marched with coolies along the new paths which the Commissioner had sanctioned for connecting the different posts. Events on the Koladan and Northern Frontier, however, would not allow of my being absent more than a few days, and I trust next year to see more of the Eastern and Lemroo Division.

137. When Mr. Hannay was engaged in exploring the country between the Chittagong and Arakan Frontier, he came upon a vein of coal, a sample of which has been forwarded on, though at present the remoteness of the portion of the country where it was found, even if it should exist in large quantities, would not allow of its being turned to much account.

Education.

138. I have not been able to submit a scheme for imparting elementary education to the hill-men, chiefly because it is so difficult at present to do so unless a larger amount of expenditure is incurred than what the Chief Commissioner has been pleased to express himself as willing to sanction, and which I am hardly justified in recommending. Indeed, I am doubtful as to whether this question, if success is to be expected, should not be left to other agency. Doubtless to train the hill-men up with the object of enabling them to take eventually an active part in their own administration—instead of, as at present, being under an inferior class of native officials, who as a rule neither can control nor understand them—is a great desideratum, and offers a fine field to the outside world; but perhaps the time is hardly yet ripe for Government to step in. The subject has, and will have, however, my earnest attention.

Conclusion.

139. The steady working of the new administrative measures sanctioned in 1871, are gradually making a noticeable impression on the hill tribes, and they are now commencing to realize the fact that, by the permanent residence of officers in the hills throughout the year, it is our intention to vigorously supervise and control them. It is also satisfactory to know that, while at the same time raids and slavery are dying out, the condition of the people is more prosperous, and that agriculture and trade possess greater attractions to them than they hitherto have. They appear generally, also, to have greater confidence in their officers, and to be ready to assist us both with information and in the repression of crime.

140. Mixing freely with them, listening patiently to their disputes, and upholding as much as possible the influence of their more respectable and influential chiefs, together with a study of their language, have much conduced to this state of improvement. Both Captain Hotham and Mr. Hannay—especially the latter officer—have gained some knowledge of the Quaymee tongue.

141. In conclusion, I would commend to favourable consideration the untiring energy and zealous efforts made by the late Assistant Superintendent of Police, Captain Hotham, and Mr. Hannay, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police on the Northern Frontier, in endeavouring to carry out the policy and orders of the Chief Commissioner during the administration of these hills in 1872-73.

Mr. Inspector Porter also appears to have an aptitude for the work, and has already done, during the short time he has been placed in these hills, some good service. The English Clerks of the Superintendent's Office, Shway Gnya and San Lha Baw, have given satisfaction.

W. G. HUGHES, *Captain,*
Supt. of Hill Tracts, N. A.

PALUKWAN :
The 26th June 1873.